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LETTER DATED 1 AUGUST 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF HONDURAS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I am writing to inform you that on 23 July 1994, the President of the Republic of Honduras, Mr. Carlos Roberto Reina, together with the other Central American Presidents, signed a Declaration concerning Haiti in which they expressed:

- Their firm commitment to peace, democracy and the development of the peoples and nations of our region, and their awareness of the human suffering created by the lack of democracy and the breakdown of the constitutional order in Haiti;

- Their dismay at the violation of human rights in Haiti, a situation which is contrary to the most basic principles underlying the international order and their view that this entails extremely serious and unacceptable acts which hamper the development of democracy in the American hemisphere;

- Their conviction that concerted action is needed to alleviate the plight of the Haitian people and their reaffirmation of the provisions of the Panama Declaration calling for the re-establishment of democratic institutions in Haiti and the provisions of the Guatemala Agenda reiterating their full support for the activities of the United Nations and the Organization of American States to restore the democratic order in that country;

- Heeding the appeal by the United Nations to the international community to increase assistance to meet the humanitarian needs of the Haitian population and as an effort on the part of the Central American region;

They declared:

1. Their determination as a region to join in the international effort to provide temporary asylum for Haitian refugees, having regard to the terms, time-frames, conditions and numbers determined by the individual Central

American countries and bearing in mind that this may be impossible for some countries in which peace negotiations are still under way, or which are still suffering from the effects of domestic armed confrontations in the form of displaced persons, returnees, and disarmed or demobilized persons who are in the process of readjusting to civilian life, or which have small territories and are overpopulated;

- That Governments which are in a position to do so will provide essential services to care for the Haitian refugees, such as integrated health teams and technical, agricultural and other training;

2. Their full support for the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council and the Organization of American States Ad Hoc Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs on Haiti with the aim of bringing about the speedy and full re-establishment of democracy and faithful compliance with the Governors Island Agreement and the New York Pact.

Pursuant to the Declaration of the Central American Presidents, the Government of the Republic of Honduras has decided, for purely humanitarian reasons and as it has done in recent years for other refugees from neighbouring countries and the Republic of Haiti, to provide asylum in Honduran territory for a six-month period for 5,000 refugees of Haitian origin, who will be placed under the coordination of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with the backing of the Government of the United States of America.

With respect to resolution 940 (1994), adopted by the Security Council on 31 July 1994, I should like to State, also on instructions from my Government, that Honduras will not support any military intervention in the Republic of Haiti pursuant to the unilateral decision of any Government and that it will intervene in Haiti only within the framework of an operation contributing to the maintenance of peace and the re-establishment of democracy in that country, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

I request that the text of this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gerardo MARTINEZ BLANCO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative